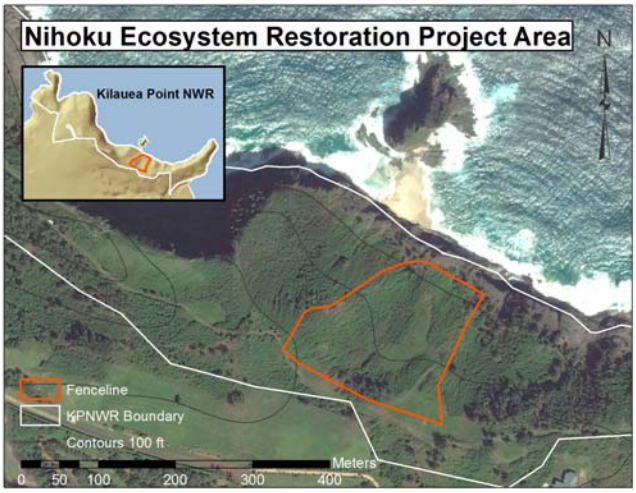
Nihoku (Crater Hill) Ecosystem Restoration Project
FACT SHEET



Map of project site


Project site looking northeast

Purpose	To protect and restore the native ecosystem of Nihoku (Crater Hill) at Kīlauea Point NWR
Resources Protected	• Native coastal plant communities • Native birds such as the Mōlī (Laysan Albatross) and endangered Nēnē (Hawaiian Goose) • Archaeological and cultural resources
Primary Threats	Introduced predators including cats, dogs, mongooses, rats, and mice that prey on ground-nesting birds such as Mōlī and Nēnē, and eat seeds of native plants
Proposed Fence Dimensions	• Length: 728 meters (2388 feet or 0.45 miles) • Height: 2 meters (6.5 feet) • Enclosed space: 3.1 hectares (7.8 acres) • Follows existing road bed and natural landscape contours to reduce visual impacts
Fence Features	• Marine grade stainless steel for strength and corrosion resistance • Small mesh to prevent even 2-day old mice from entering • Rolled hood to prevent animals from climbing over • Painted green to blend in with natural environment • Gates for access for guided tours and refuge staff and vehicles • Expected to last 15-25 years (fences in similar climates in New Zealand are now 15 years old)
Timeline	• Currently in the planning phase with construction likely summer 2014 • The fence itself would take 2-3 months to build • Refuge would remain open during that time, as the fence is not in an area regularly open to visitors
Construction	• Materials would be driven out daily with construction staff to minimize materials storage on-site and the number of trips taken on the road • Construction would be done with local labor • Measures would be taken to prevent the introduction of new pests on construction equipment

Control of Introduced Predators	• Would begin in winter after construction • Would use trapping for larger animals (if any are present after construction) • Would use a combination of rodenticide in bait boxes and traps for rodents; bait wouldn't be broadcast • Methods would be determined after 1-year rodent abundance and behavior study
Biological Monitoring	• All species – mammals, invertebrates, plants, native birds - are currently undergoing comprehensive baseline surveys prior to fence construction • Surveys would be done after removal of introduced predators to evaluate the effectiveness of the fence in protecting native species • Monitoring would be in place at all times to detect if pests have re-entered the protected area for rapid response
Public Outreach	• The public will have the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment which is planned for release in late summer of 2013 • Neighborhood association and other community meetings will be presented at during the summer and fall of 2013 • Current information will be posted at: http://www.fws.gov/kilaueapoint/
Impact to Cultural and Biological Resources	• Nihoku is a culturally significant landscape • Fence line would run primarily along a road, bedrock and weedy areas to minimize impacts • No known burials or structures occur along or within fence line. An archaeological survey was conducted in April 2013 to confirm this and determine site uses and significance • Cultural and biological monitors would be used to ensure sensitive features are protected and proper protocols are followed if they are encountered during construction
Project Sponsors	• U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (landowner/manager) • National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (funder) • The American Bird Conservancy (funder, partner) • Kaua'i Endangered Seabird Recovery Project (partner)

Future Beneficiaries

'Ā or Red-footed Booby and Koa'e 'ula or Red-tailed Tropicbird (Photos B. Zaun/USFWS).